

Message Text

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SUBJECT: U.S.-STYLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SOUGHT FOR ATLANTIC CANADA

1. ANNUAL MEETING IN HALIFAX OF ASSN OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF NOVA SCOTIA (APENS) WAS VENUE FOR JUNE 23 SPEECH BY J B MORROW, VICE-PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL SEA PRODUCTS, IN WHICH HE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ATLANTIC MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO BE MADE UP OF FISHERMEN, PROCESSORS, AND OFFICIALS FROM THE FIVE EASTERN PROVINCIAL GOVTS, WHICH WOULD MANAGE THE EAST COAST FISHING INDUSTRY. CLAIMING THAT THE GOC IS TOO REMOVED FROM THE REGION TO MANAGE THE INDUSTRY PROPERLY, EVEN THOUGH IT HAS MADE A SINCERE EFFORT TO DO SO, MORROW SAID THAT MANAGEMENT OF THE INDUSTRY MUST BE RETURNED "TO WHERE THE ACTION IS."

2. UNDER MORROW S PROPOSAL, GOC WOULD APPOINT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND WOULD RETAIN OVERALL POLICY CONTROL
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WHILE DELEGATING TO THE COUNCIL THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS OF LICENSES, STOCK ALLOCATIONS, AND QUOTAS. THIS DEVISION OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN THE GOC AND THE COUNCIL, MORROW CLAIMED, WOULD OBVIATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY SUCH SITUATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHERE THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCILS HAVE BEEN AT LOGGERHEADS WITH THE USG.

3. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT TOUCH ON SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION, PREMIER GERALD REGAN SOUNDED SOMEWHAT THE SAME THEME AS MORROW WHEN HE ADDRESSED APENS ON JUNE 24. CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW IN CANADA, REGAN SAID, SHOULD CONTAIN SOME PROVISIONS TO GIVE THE ATLANTIC REGION MORE DECISION MAKING POWER IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY. "MORE DECISIONS IN THE FISHERY," HE SAID, "MUST AT LEAST BE MADE IN THIS REGION IF NOT BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT."

4. COMMENT: THE INITIAL REACTION TO MORROW S PROPOSAL BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FISHERMENS ASSN WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE, ALTHOUGH HE HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT DETAILS. HE WAS LESS THAN ENCHANTED WITH THE IDEA OF MODELLING THE PROPOSED NEW COUNCIL ON THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCILS: "THEY ARE NOT PERFECT...THEY HAVE PITFALLS TOO."

5. ALTHOUGH REACTIONS FROM OTHER PARTS OF ATLANTIC CANADA HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT MANY IF NOT MOST OF THEM WOULD BE FAVORABLE ALSO. THERE IS AN INCREASING TIDE OF SENTIMENT WITHIN ATLANTIC CANADA FOR GREATER LOCAL POWERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERIES. UNLIKE CERTAIN OTHER PROPOSALS IN RECENT MONTHS FROM PREMIERS AND

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PROVINCIAL FISHERIES MINISTERS WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED THE DEVOLUTION OF FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGMENT AUTHORITY TO INDIVIDUAL PROVINCES AND WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE LED TO INTERNECINE FREE-FOR-ALLS, MORROW S PROPOSAL FOR A US-STYLE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SEEMS PRACTICAL AND WORKABLE. WHETHER ITS PRACTICALITY AND WORKABILITY WILL CUT ANY ICE WITH GOC FISHERIES MINISTER ROMEO LEBLANC, WHO HAS HIS OWN IDEAS ON WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE FISHERIES, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END COMMENT.
MOORE

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